

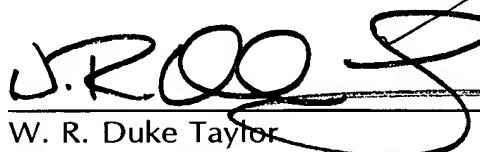
exerted by the bowler on the ball, the projections or gripping members flatten to provide a larger surface on the ball to enhance contact with the ball.

The Stevens reference relied on by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention as now claimed. The Stevens reference discloses a toothbrush. Nowhere does the Stevens reference disclose or suggest projections or gripping members to contact a ball. Thus, Applicant believes Claims 1 and 6 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2 through 5 and 7 through 16, which depend from Claims 1 and 6, respectively, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant would submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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